

Dear fcc,

I am writing as a concerned citizen to express my alarm at the continued relaxing of restrictions on large media conglomerates. Democracy is served best by many voices; thousands of competing voices; not the voices of a few well-heeled mega-monopolies; even a few dozen voices, all large, distorts the very nature of our democracy. I am alarmed by the trends, and Fox News stands as a glaring example of the power of a large media empire espousing right-wing propaganda, and the threat this poses to the liberal, freedom-loving democracy which the US has embodied for so long. Clear Channel now represents a similar threat- a large, unquestioning, propaganda machine for corporate interests, which has silenced war critics on thousands of stations while fully 80-90% of world public opinion agreed with those critics.

Make no mistake that many things we cherish will continue to be diminished without a free and competitive press. Civil rights, environmental protections, workers rights, all will continue to be diminished, and the rise of fascism will continue to destroy the great nation that was once a shining beacon of liberal democracy and freedom. Those who support diplomacy and the democratic process (embodied by the UN) will continue to be overruled by the war machine that now stands ready to conquer the world. I fear for our nation and the world. Without a free press, who will tell the people of America the truth? I share the alarm felt by the rest of the informed thinking world. As a student of history, I am alarmed by the parallels to Weimar Germany in the 1930s. I urge you to stop the consolidation of this critical check-and-balance in a healthy democracy. (it is often taught in civic class that the press is a critical fourth branch of government) A corporate press is NOT a free press. Please stop the consolidation of power before it is too late. SUPPORT DEMOCRACY BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

Sincerely, Chad Speight, Graduate of Dartmouth College, class of 1988; Owner of a residential remodeling company, Chad's Carpentry, Inc.; Former high school history teacher